

## EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan.

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01/01/2013	Fracking Fiction - Jillian Kay Melchior - National Review Online	National Review - Online
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12/29/2012	Fracking becoming popular in Hollywood	Grand Forks Herald - Online
12/29/2012	Fracking becoming popular in Hollywood	Grand Forks Herald - Online
12/29/2012	Channel 5 News @ 10PM	Channel 5 News at 10 PM - KGWN-TV
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12/28/2012	After Jackson, EPA faces decisions on U.S. fracking boom	Thomson Reuters - UK - Online
12/28/2012	UPDATE 1-After Jackson, EPA faces decisions on US fracking boom	Reuters - Online
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12/28/2012	Channel 5 News @ 5:30PM	Channel 5 News at 5:30 PM - KGWN-TV
12/28/2012	UPDATE 1-After Jackson, EPA faces decisions on US fracking boom	Reuters India
12/28/2012	EPA head Jackson steps down	Wyoming Business Report - Online, The
12/28/2012	After Jackson, EPA faces decisions on U.S. fracking boom	Yahoo! News
12/28/2012	After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom	CNBC - Online
12/28/2012	After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom   Sustainability   Thomson Reuters	thomsonreuters.com
12/28/2012	EPA Fracking Regulation To Fall On Lisa Jackson's Successor	Huffington Post, The
12/28/2012	After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom	Business Insurance - Online
12/28/2012	EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson announces resignation	Casper Star-Tribune - Online
12/28/2012	After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom	Today Show - NBC News Network - Online
12/28/2012	After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom	MSNBC - Online
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12/28/2012	EPA Administrator Jackson announces resignation	KOTA-TV - Online
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12/28/2012	After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom	WTBX-FM - Online

12/28/2012	After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U...	WSAU.com
12/28/2012	In fracking culture war, celebs, billionaires and banjos	Itmatters.com.ph
12/28/2012	After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom	KDAL-AM - Online
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12/28/2012	EPA Administrator Jackson announces resignation	KGWN-TV - Online
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12/28/2012	After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom	Thomson Reuters - UK - Online
12/28/2012	EPA Administrator Jackson announces resignation	Associated Press (AP) - Cheyenne Bureau
12/28/2012	Latest Wyoming news, sports, business and entertainment	Associated Press (AP) - Cheyenne Bureau

# EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2

## **EDITORIAL: Fracking flick channels science fiction** **Washington Times - Online**

**01/01/2013**

Left Coast liberals would explode natural gas revolution

By THE WASHINGTON TIMES

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The Washington Times

Tuesday, January 1, 2013

If you don't have the facts on your side, make some up. That's Hollywood's typical scheme for pushing its left-wing views on American audiences. Tinseltown's "Promised Land" puts a heavy thumb on the scale in favor of Big Green in its battle to vanquish the natural-gas industry in the debate over hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking." The film is thinly disguised propaganda designed to turn public opinion against an affordable energy source that could prove the undoing of hopelessly inefficient windmills and solar panels.

"Promised Land," which opened Friday, portrays an economically depressed rural town that becomes the battleground between a rapacious natural-gas corporation and noble environmentalists. The firm wants to buy up drilling rights to local lands, but conscientious activists mount resistance, arguing that the natural-gas wells could contaminate the water table and damage their wholesome community.

Fracking is a breakthrough procedure for tapping natural gas that pumps water, sand and chemicals into underground seams, cracking shale rock and releasing trapped pockets of gas previously unreachable. The technique has made it possible to tap hundreds of trillions of cubic feet of natural gas trapped underfoot and promises to transform the United States into "the Saudi Arabia of natural gas."

Not coincidentally, the Environmental Protection Agency is investigating whether fracking can contaminate underground water tables - exactly the controversy portrayed in the film. EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson has spent the past four years as commanding general in President Obama's war on fossil fuels. She announced her resignation last week, effective following Mr. Obama's Jan. 20 inauguration, but the changing of the guard is not likely to alter the regulatory agency's direction. Triggered by a claim of contaminated water in Pavillion, Wyo., the EPA probe could lead to onerous restrictions on fracking designed to reinforce the White House's ideological commitment to trendy energy firms that have an alarming tendency to go bankrupt after the subsidies run out.

"Promised Land" was written by Matt Damon, former star of the silver screen's "Bourne" series, and John Krasinski, from NBC's "The Office." Mr. Damon is not shy about sharing his radical political views and made a point of being seen among the Occupy Wall Street protesters. While he claims to be fed up with the slow-moving pace of Washington politics, he backed Mr. Obama twice, and he raised money for Democratic senatorial candidate Elizabeth Warren in Massachusetts.

Mr. Damon has been less forthcoming about his personal views on fracking, telling Reuters, "The point is that the movie should start a conversation." He says he was unaware that the film was partially funded by a media company owned by the United Arab Emirates, a fact uncovered by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. The state, a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, has a clear interest in hindering the growth of the natural-gas industry in the United States, which threatens to undercut America's dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

If "Promised Land" is any indication of the forces shaping Big Green's favored treatment by the left-wing Washington-Hollywood axis, the EPA's conclusions about fracking are apt to be contaminated by science fiction rather than reflect genuine science.

The Washington Times

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# **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

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# EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2

## Fracking Fiction - Jillian Kay Melchior - National Review Online National Review - Online

01/01/2013

January 1, 2013 4:00 A.M.

Fracking Fiction

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Damon's failures are all the more unfortunate given that the characters are all the movie has to rely on. Even Mother Jones writes that "by the film's end, Matt Damon will have taught you precisely two things about fracking: That it's bad for cows, and even worse for heartfelt dramatic monologues delivered by Matt Damon."

On the pros and cons of fracking, *Promised Land* is pitiful. The plot rests on the assumption that fracking contaminates water. But Lisa Jackson, who just resigned as head of the Environmental Protection Agency, has reluctantly told Congress that there are no "proven cases where the fracking process itself has affected water."

And the most thorough description of the fracking process comes courtesy of Krasinski, who douses a toy farm set with household chemicals and lights it on fire to the delight of a classroom full of kids. Then he dangles the class turtle above the flaming mess, asking the children if their pet would like to live there now. Obviously, this is alarmism in the place of argument.

The film briefly alludes to arguments in favor of fracking, but it never takes them seriously, instead introducing cameo characters whose sole purpose is to illustrate emotional points rather than scientific ones. For example, do you think fracking might help make the U.S. energy independent? Here's a one-minute allusion to a little boy whose father fought overseas, and one character asking if that soldier's sacrifice was worth nothing. Think fracking provides economic benefits, including hundreds of thousands of high-paying jobs, to rural communities? Well, here's Matt Damon's character ripping families off. And here's a guy with a hick accent who takes the corporate check and uses it to make a down payment on a tricked-out car he clearly cannot afford. Some economic benefit!

These emotional appeals don't stand up, and neither does the ending, at least artistically. The plot twist is nevertheless clever, though, because real-life environmentalists haven't been honest in their arguments against fracking, either. For example, just last year, the EPA issued a preliminary report claiming that fracking contaminated water in Pavillion, Wyo. - and if the report had been accurate, it would have been an unprecedented connection. But further examination showed that the EPA's research was incredibly flawed, and that the study had been initially released before peer review. The claim was political, not scientific, and it proved an embarrassment to the EPA. That's no anomaly; environmental groups have been caught repeatedly using shoddy science to further their cause.

In an Alinskyite twist, *Promised Land* introduces the suspicion that such deception is actually the doing of Machiavellian energy giants. When you consider the track record of alarmist environmentalism, that's classic projection, of course - but the public has proven willing to assume the worst of corporations.

Many moviegoers won't take the time to examine the actual facts of fracking, instead taking *Promised Land*'s word for it that the practice hurts the environment. In reality, Big Film takes the place of Big Energy, pulling a fast one on Americans who haven't done their homework. But, in the words of Krasinski's character: "What else was I supposed to do? It's not a fair fight."

- Jillian Kay Melchior is a Thomas L. Rhodes Fellow for the Franklin Center for Government and Public Integrity.

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### **Don't throw out the wells, throw out the conclusions** **Casper Star-Tribune - Online**

**12/31/2012**

Don't throw out the wells, throw out the conclusions

2012-12-31T00:00:00Z 2012-12-30T17:38:07Z Don't throw out the wells, throw out the conclusions

trib.com

Excuse the phrase: Encana has muddied the waters in Pavillion.

You may remember that Encana is the energy company accused of contaminating groundwater in the Pavillion area as it used hydraulic fracturing to extract oil and gas. A preliminary report by the Environmental Protection Agency linked petroleum hydrocarbons found in the fracking process in water, and blamed the industry.

Yet shortly after the initial release, Encana and scientists from various backgrounds poked holes in the report, criticizing the agency for shoddy, sloppy science that could have skewed the results.

Since those findings and the subsequent understandable attacks on the report, groups have been warring about the findings and what they meant.

One thing is for certain: The current EPA report that is still out for public comment will never be credible. That is because energy companies will always be able to assail the terrible science of the report.

That's why we've said a new study with better science has to be conducted in order to ascertain data that can withstand the scrutiny of science. Until we demand new data, there is enough doubt and mistrust to keep the issue at loggerheads.

Earlier this month, though, Encana called on the EPA to abandon all of its water wells. It argued the wells should be removed because they were drilled too deep. Drilling too deeply would tap water, just not groundwater. Encana claims that any water taken from those wells will never be drinking water and therefore can't be considered.

And, if the EPA admits those wells were improperly sampled and drilled too deeply, then it must also discredit its own findings on fracking.

We're not scientists. And, we're not able to assess the validity of Encana's claim. That is better left hydrologists and geologists who can study the validity. We hope that experts from outside Encana and the EPA can weigh in on the important issue. We need outside, independent voices for perspective.

While it remains to be seen whether Encana's request is more than just a political move, the concerns need an answer.

Encana is right in another way: Something needs to be abandoned.

The report that linked the Pavillion area water with fracking had acknowledged scientific problems. It had so many problems that we couldn't find many who comment because the report itself raised too many questions. By the EPA's admittance, it left a few big, key important holes.

With the charged politics surrounding Pavillion, it's time for the EPA to admit: It made a mistake. No amount of backtracking, public commenting or explanation will justify the conclusions. The results shouldn't fit a preconceived political position the White House seems intent on pushing which is that fracking is a bad, dangerous practice.

The only thing that should be abandoned is the old report. A new report and study should be conducted. Yet, it needs to be done in a way that has the credibility and respect of both the industry, scientists and the EPA itself.

As the EPA battles Encana, or vice versa, we'd point out that there are still residents without clean water. Even worse, they don't have a clear picture of what's causing this, how to fix it, and who is to blame.

# **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

Better science will mean better answers.

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### **UPDATE 1-After Jackson, EPA faces decisions on US fracking boom** **CNBC - Online**

**12/31/2012**

By: Jonathan Leff and Joshua Schneyer

NEW YORK, Dec 28 (Reuters) - The past four years of U.S. environmental regulation was marked by a crackdown on emissions that angered coal miners and power companies. Over the next four, the new head of the Environmental Protection Agency will have to decide whether to take on an even larger industry: Big Oil.

Following Lisa Jackson's resignation on Wednesday, her successor will inherit the tricky task of regulating a drilling boom that has revolutionized the energy industry but raised fears over the possible contamination of water supplies.

The controversial technique at the center of the boom, hydraulic fracturing, involves injecting millions of gallons of water laced with chemicals deep into shale rocks to extract oil and gas. It has become a flashpoint issue, putting the EPA -- charged with safeguarding the nation's water -- in the middle of a fight between environmentalists and the energy industry.

Both sides now eagerly await a major EPA research project into fracking's effects on water supplies due in 2014, as well as final rules on issues including the disposal of wastewater and the use of 'diesel' chemicals in the process.

It is unclear who will take the role, but the incoming chief may have a "huge impact" on the oil and gas industry, says Robert McNally, a White House energy adviser during the George W. Bush administration who now heads the Rapidan Group, a consulting firm.

On the one hand, energy industry and big manufacturers are warning the EPA not to impede a drilling boom that offers the promise of decades' worth of cheap energy. Meanwhile, environmentalists are pressing President Barack Obama to ensure the drilling bonanza is not endangering water resources.

"This administration clearly needs contributors to economic growth for its economic legacy as much as it needs to add to its environmental legacy," said Bruce Bullock of the Maguire Energy Institute at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

"This appointment could be key in seeing which of those two legacies is more important."

There are many contenders for the role, but no clear front-runner as yet. Obama may seek an insider to avoid a difficult confirmation process, with possible candidates including Bob Perciasepe, the EPA deputy administrator and interim chief, and Gina McCarthy, who runs the air quality division.

Obama is unlikely to win Congressional approval for a heavy-handed regulator, and there is no suggestion of a stringent crackdown.

Even Jackson, who suffered withering criticism from big industry and Republicans for her efforts to curb pollution and limit greenhouse gas emissions, has cautiously condoned the practice as safe, while acknowledging the need for greater study and, in some cases, oversight.

"(Fracking technology) is perfectly capable of being clean," Jackson said in February. "It requires smart regulation, smart rules of the road."

Jackson's successor may now be charged with refining those rules, and both energy companies and fracking critics are anxious about the outcome.

Industry body Independent Petroleum Association of America said the EPA has "hindered development" of oil and gas for four years, and looks forward to a new chief who will promote energy drilling "hand in hand" with environmental regulation.

Executive director of the Sierra Club environmental group Michael Brune says the EPA has "unfinished business" in addressing things such as the release of methane emissions during fracking.

## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

### **APPETITE TO REGULATE**

Some analysts say Obama will not risk the economic stimulus of cheaper, domestic energy by pushing for tougher regulations. The oil sector is one of the few bright spots in the U.S. economy; natural gas prices are near their lowest in a decade, a boon for manufacturers, and U.S. oil output is the highest in 18 years.

"Even before (Jackson's resignation) there didn't seem to be much of an appetite in the White House to regulate shale drilling on a federal level in the next couple of years," says Nitzan Goldberger, U.S. energy policy analyst with Eurasia Group.

But big drillers such as ExxonMobil and Chesapeake who have plowed billions of dollars into shale fields are watching carefully for any sign of new rules or oversight.

Mark P. Fitzsimmons, a former lawyer in the Department of Justice's environmental division, and now a partner at Steptoe & Johnson LLP in Wash DC, says there is "a risk of overregulation." Some drilling activity has already slowed sharply this year due to the slump in natural gas prices.

"Regulatory overlays that add to the cost of production will further slow down development" but won't stop it, he said.

While fracking technology has been around for decades, it has only gained widespread use across dozens of states in recent years. The EPA, like many groups, has struggled to keep up with the expansion, according to Government Accountability Office reports released earlier this year.

After years in which states were mostly responsible for regulating onshore drilling, the new EPA administrator will be pressed to take a more central role.

A year ago, in the first U.S. government report of its kind, the EPA drew a potential link between water contamination in rural Pavillion, Wyoming and fracking, based on samples of ground water from the area. That study has been contested, and subsequent research has been inconclusive.

A firmer word on the impact may not emerge until 2014, when the EPA is expected to release the first exhaustive in-depth government study on the long-term effects of fracking on drinking water, commissioned by Congress over two years.

While climate change issues and air pollution may remain larger agency priorities, fracking is moving up the agenda.

"I don't think they would be capable of ignoring something that Matt Damon makes a movie about," said Fitzsimmons.

Damon and John Krasinski star in "Promised Land," a new film that opened on Friday exploring the social impact of fracking. It received mixed reviews from critics, but is being closely watched by an energy industry that fears it could further antagonize public opinion over domestic drilling.

A Gallup poll this year showed drinking water contamination is the leading environmental concern among Americans.

### **DIESEL, WASTEWATER AND FLARING**

The debate rages over a diverse range of issues.

While fracking was exempted from the Federal Clean Water Act in 2005, operations that used diesel fuel, which contains a number of toxic chemical compounds, were not exempted.

However, what exactly constitutes "diesel" has been a bone of contention among oil firms and environmental groups.

"The question is how to define "diesel" - broadly or narrowly," says consultant McNally.

"It's a big issue especially for Bakken producers," he said, referring to the region of North Dakota where crude oil output has more than tripled in two years.

The EPA published a draft definition in May, which met with criticism from the industry and some legislators, but it will fall to the new administrator to set a final definition.

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Under Jackson, the EPA also said it would begin to regulate the millions of gallons a day of wastewater that is withdrawn from wells after the fracking process, probably in 2014. This is usually trucked offsite and sometimes re-injected elsewhere, although increasingly it is being reprocessed for further use.

And eventually, the EPA could face pressure to backtrack on previous initiatives. In April, the agency relented to pressure from the industry, giving drillers until January 2015 to end the practice of "flaring" excess natural gas from wells that were not connected to pipelines. It had initially proposed that firms cease almost immediately.

For Jackson's successor, a central question is whether the EPA takes a broader role in the industry, or, as Jackson hinted a year ago, allows state officials to call most the shots when it comes to drilling:

"It's not to say that there isn't a federal role, but you can't start to talk about a federal role without acknowledging the very strong state role."

It has become a flashpoint issue, putting the EPA-- charged with safeguarding the nation's water-- in the middle of a fight between environmentalists and the energy industry.

# **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

## **Top 10 stories of 2012 in Wyoming Casper Star-Tribune - Online**

**12/29/2012**

2012

Top 10 stories of 2012 in Wyoming

2012-12-29T12:00:00Z 2012-12-28T20:28:54Z Top 10 stories of 2012 in Wyoming

By the Star-Tribune staff

trib.com

2012 -- what a year. Both nationally and locally, it was a big year for news. Wyoming had its share of politics, disasters and sensational news. Here is a look at the Top 10 stories as voted on by employees of the Casper Star-Tribune.

### **Incident at Casper College**

On Nov. 30, Casper College computer science professor Jim Krumm was preparing for his Friday morning class when his son walked into the classroom. Chris Krumm had already driven nearly 2,000 miles from Vernon, Conn., and typed out his letter for those who would inevitably find it while searching for evidence.

He shot his father in the head with a bow and arrow before driving a knife into Jim's chest and eventually his own body. Two minutes after the first emergency call was received from the college, there was a report of a stabbing on Hawthorne Avenue. Chris murdered Heidi Arnold just outside her home before his attack on Jim. Arnold was his father's girlfriend and a math instructor at Casper College.

Chris left a rambling manifesto, "Tired of Having Asperger Syndrome; America Should Look to China" in which he blamed his father for giving him Asperger's. Casper Police said Chris Krumm's claim of having Asperger's was self-diagnosed, and they hoped families and friends recognize warning signs of troubled individuals and perhaps prevent future tragedies.

### **Casper Mountain Fire**

Strong winds and historically dry conditions created the perfect storm for Casper Mountain's 2012 fire. It was dubbed the Sheepherder Hill Fire after its point of origin just south of Beartrap Meadow. The blaze was the most massive in recent history, eventually burning more than 15,500 acres and 37 cabins and homes. The last Casper Mountain fire that approached this magnitude was 2006's Jackson Canyon Fire that burned nearly 12,000 acres.

The fire began about 4 p.m. Sept. 9, and a week later, it was almost entirely contained. To date, the cause remains unknown, but investigators have ruled out natural events. Human activity such as ATV exhaust, a discarded cigarette or intentional lighting are the most likely sources. At least one family has begun rebuilding on their charred property and more are expected to start this spring.

### **Dave Christensen's outburst**

In addition to a handshake, Wyoming football coach Dave Christensen gave his Air Force counterpart a profanity-laden tongue-lashing that became a dubious internet sensation. Christensen accused the Falcons of cheating by faking an injury during the game. Air Force won the Oct. 13 game 28-27.

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UW, not the Mountain West, levied the penalties on Christensen -- a \$50,000 fine and a one-game suspension. The Cowboys, who entered the season with bowl hopes, finished the season with a 4-8 record.

### **Pavillion in the spotlight**

Everyone seem to take a breath in the tussle over water testing in the Pavillion area in 2012. In January, the Environmental Protection Agency extended comment on its draft report that tentatively linked groundwater contamination in the area to the oil and gas industry practice of hydraulic fracturing.

The EPA later agreed to more tests conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey, tests the EPA said showed results generally consistent with its own results. The industry disputed that claim. The fight is far from over. Earlier this month, Encana, which owns the wells in the area, called on the EPA to abandon them, claiming the water from the monitoring wells was too deep and different than the water in residential wells.

### **Colton Sasser returns**

On April 15 in Kunar province Afghanistan, a 200-pound bomb exploded under the armored truck driven by Army Spc. Colton Sasser, 21, of Casper. The impact flipped the truck in the air and killed Staff Sgt. David Nowaczuk who was riding shotgun next to Sasser.

Sasser was in a coma for 15 days and suffered 23 serious injuries, including traumatic brain injury, a pulverized back bone, an amputated left leg and others. After seven months of painful recovery and physical therapy, Sasser returned to Casper for the first time in November to spend Thanksgiving with his family. Hundreds of people met him at the airport and lined the streets waving flags as banners as a caravan of more than 24 vehicles escorted him home. All of Centennial Junior High walked to his house to greet him.

### **Casper passes smoking ban**

After months of contentious debate, the Casper City Council passed a public smoking ban in June. It survived a referendum effort, unlike its earlier counterpart that was passed and overturned in 2000.

Discussion pitted claims of business rights to self-regulation against individual rights to a safe and healthy environment. The referendum petition drive was 412 signatures short, and the ordinance took effect in September.

### **Wheatland tornado**

A quarter-mile-wide tornado tore through farmland south of Wheatland on June 7. The 130-mph twister destroyed four structures and damaged 10 others. The only reported injury was to 69-year-old Air Force veteran Al Love. He hid in his bedroom while the tornado leveled much of his home.

"If I had waited to process it based on what I saw...it would have been too late," he told the Star-Tribune on June. 8.

### **Voters decline library proposal**

In a contest even tighter than its 2008 counterpart, voters said "no" this Election Day to the proposed 1-cent special purpose sales tax that would have funded a new public library facility in downtown Casper.

Fewer than 600 votes decided the fate of the measure, which had been downsized considerably from a similar new-library proposal up for vote four years ago. Meanwhile, library officials say the strains on Casper's current facility are not going

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away anytime soon.

### **Carbon Sink fiasco**

University of Wyoming officials quietly removed an on-campus sculpture called "Carbon Sink: What Goes Around Comes Around" in May, after its 2011 installation spark an uproar from state legislators, donors and energy industry representatives who viewed the wood-and-coal piece as anti-coal.

Emails obtained by media in Wyoming showed university officials dealing with the outrage and arranging to take the sculpture down early due to the controversy, although UW President Tom Buchanan later said there was "nothing nefarious" about the piece's removal and he wasn't pressured into doing so.

### **Cindy Hill vs. lawmakers**

A year of fighting between Superintendent of Public Instruction Cindy Hill and legislators culminated with a report by legislative liaisons that blasted the Wyoming Department of Education for misunderstanding or ignoring the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act.

The report demonstrated serious concerns from legislative auditors about the department itself. The Select Committee on Statewide Education Accountability passed measures to gain more control of education, including a move to strip the superintendent of voting power on the state's board of education.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Cindy Hill said "the good ol' boys are at work" to make the superintendent position appointed.

### **Recommendations**

## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

### **After Jackson, EPA faces decisions on U.S. fracking boom**

**Reuters - Online**

**New York, NY**

**Jonathan Leff**

**12/29/2012**

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The controversial technique at the center of the boom, hydraulic fracturing, involves injecting millions of gallons of water laced with chemicals deep into shale rocks to extract oil and gas. It has become a flashpoint issue, putting the EPA -- charged with safeguarding the nation's water -- in the middle of a fight between environmentalists and the energy industry.

Both sides now eagerly await a major EPA research project into fracking's effects on water supplies due in 2014, as well as final rules on issues including the disposal of wastewater and the use of 'diesel' chemicals in the process.

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APPETITE TO REGULATE

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"Even before (Jackson's resignation) there didn't seem to be much of an appetite in the White House to regulate shale drilling on a federal level in the next couple of years," says Nitzan Goldberger, U.S. energy policy analyst with Eurasia Group.

But big drillers such as ExxonMobil and Chesapeake who have plowed billions of dollars into shale fields are watching carefully for any sign of new rules or oversight.

Mark P. Fitzsimmons, a former lawyer in the Department of Justice's environmental division, and now a partner at Steptoe & Johnson LLP in Wash DC, says there is "a risk of overregulation." Some drilling activity has already slowed sharply this year due to the slump in natural gas prices.

"Regulatory overlays that add to the cost of production will further slow down development" but won't stop it, he said.

While fracking technology has been around for decades, it has only gained widespread use across dozens of states in recent years. The EPA, like many groups, has struggled to keep up with the expansion, according to Government Accountability Office reports released earlier this year.

After years in which states were mostly responsible for regulating onshore drilling, the new EPA administrator will be pressed to take a more central role.

A year ago, in the first U.S. government report of its kind, the EPA drew a potential link between water contamination in rural Pavillion, Wyoming and fracking, based on samples of ground water from the area. That study has been contested, and subsequent research has been inconclusive.

A firmer word on the impact may not emerge until 2014, when the EPA is expected to release the first exhaustive in-depth government study on the long-term effects of fracking on drinking water, commissioned by Congress over two years.

While climate change issues and air pollution may remain larger agency priorities, fracking is moving up the agenda.

"I don't think they would be capable of ignoring something that Matt Damon makes a movie about," said Fitzsimmons.

Damon and John Krasinski star in "Promised Land," a new film that opened on Friday exploring the social impact of fracking. It received mixed reviews from critics, but is being closely watched by an energy industry that fears it could further antagonize public opinion over domestic drilling.

A Gallup poll this year showed drinking water contamination is the leading environmental concern among Americans.

#### **DIESEL, WASTEWATER AND FLARING**

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However, what exactly constitutes "diesel" has been a bone of contention among oil firms and environmental groups.

"The question is how to define "diesel" - broadly or narrowly," says consultant McNally.

"It's a big issue especially for Bakken producers," he said, referring to the region of North Dakota where crude oil output has more than tripled in two years.

The EPA published a draft definition in May, which met with criticism from the industry and some legislators, but it will fall to the new administrator to set a final definition.

Under Jackson, the EPA also said it would begin to regulate the millions of gallons a day of wastewater that is withdrawn

## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan.**

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from wells after the fracking process, probably in 2014. This is usually trucked offsite and sometimes re-injected elsewhere, although increasingly it is being reprocessed for further use.

And eventually, the EPA could face pressure to backtrack on previous initiatives. In April, the agency relented to pressure from the industry, giving drillers until January 2015 to end the practice of "flaring" excess natural gas from wells that were not connected to pipelines. It had initially proposed that firms cease almost immediately.

For Jackson's successor, a central question is whether the EPA takes a broader role in the industry, or, as Jackson hinted a year ago, allows state officials to call most the shots when it comes to drilling:

"It's not to say that there isn't a federal role, but you can't start to talk about a federal role without acknowledging the very strong state role."

(Additional reporting by Selam Gebrekidan and Valerie Volcovici; Editing by Joseph Radford and Andrew Hay)

# **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan.**

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### **After Jackson, EPA faces decisions on U.S. fracking boom** **Laredo Sun**

**12/29/2012**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, speaks during a news conference in Rio de Janeiro June 20, 2012. REUTERS/Ueslei Marcelino

The past four years of U.S. environmental regulation was marked by a crackdown on emissions that angered coal miners and power companies.

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The past four years of U.S. environmental regulation was marked by a crackdown on emissions that angered coal miners and power companies.

Over the next four, the new head of the Environmental Protection Agency will have to decide whether to take on an even larger industry: Big Oil.

Following Lisa Jackson 's resignation on Wednesday, her successor will inherit the tricky task of regulating a drilling boom that has revolutionized the energy industry but raised fears over the possible contamination of water supplies.

The controversial technique at the center of the boom, hydraulic fracturing, involves injecting millions of gallons of water laced with chemicals deep into shale rocks to extract oil and gas.

It has become a flashpoint issue, putting the EPA -- charged with safeguarding the nation's water -- in the middle of a fight between environmentalists and the energy industry.

Both sides now eagerly await a major EPA research project into fracking's effects on water supplies due in 2014, as well as final rules on issues including the disposal of wastewater and the use of 'diesel' chemicals in the process.

It is unclear who will take the role, but the incoming chief may have a "huge impact" on the oil and gas industry, says Robert McNally, a White House energy adviser during the George W. Bush administration who now heads the Rapidan Group, a consulting firm.

On the one hand, energy industry and big manufacturers are warning the EPA not to impede a drilling boom that offers the promise of decades' worth of cheap energy.

Meanwhile, environmentalists are pressing President Barack Obama to ensure the drilling bonanza is not endangering water resources.

"This administration clearly needs contributors to economic growth for its economic legacy as much as it needs to add to its environmental legacy," said Bruce Bullock of the Maguire Energy Institute at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

"This appointment could be key in seeing which of those two legacies is more important."

There are many contenders for the role, but no clear front-runner as yet. Obama may seek an insider to avoid a difficult confirmation process, with possible candidates including Bob Perciasepe, the EPA deputy administrator and interim chief, and Gina McCarthy, who runs the air quality division.

Obama is unlikely to win Congressional approval for a heavy-handed regulator, and there is no suggestion of a stringent crackdown.

Even Jackson, who suffered withering criticism from big industry and Republicans for her efforts to curb pollution and limit greenhouse gas emissions, has cautiously condoned the practice as safe, while acknowledging the need for greater study and, in some cases, oversight.

"(Fracking technology) is perfectly capable of being clean," Jackson said in February. "It requires smart regulation, smart rules of the road."

## EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2

Jackson's successor may now be charged with refining those rules, and both energy companies and fracking critics are anxious about the outcome.

Industry body Independent Petroleum Association of America said the EPA has "hindered development" of oil and gas for four years, and looks forward to a new chief who will promote energy drilling "hand in hand" with environmental regulation.

Executive director of the Sierra Club environmental group Michael Brune says the EPA has "unfinished business" in addressing things such as the release of methane emissions during fracking.

### APPETITE TO REGULATE

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economy; natural gas prices are near their lowest in a decade, a boon for manufacturers, and U.S. oil output is the highest in 18 years.

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## **Fracking becoming popular in Hollywood Grand Forks Herald - Online**

**12/29/2012**

Published December 29, 2012, 07:15 AM

Fracking becoming popular in Hollywood

Not so long ago, fracking was a technical term little known beyond the energy industry. Now it's coming to Hollywood, as the fierce battle between environmentalists and oil firms is played out in several forthcoming films.

By:

Joshua Schneyer and Edward McAllister, Reuters

NEW YORK – Not so long ago, fracking was a technical term little known beyond the energy industry. Now it's coming to Hollywood, as the fierce battle between environmentalists and oil firms is played out in several forthcoming films.

Hydraulic fracturing, the controversial drilling technique also known as fracking, has lifted U.S. energy output dramatically, despite warnings from critics who fear it pollutes water deep underground.

Any shift in public opinion could impact policy – and huge sums in energy spending – since drilling regulations are under review by the Obama administration and local officials around the country. The high stakes involve a range of issues from U.S. energy independence, to protection of drinking water.

Both sides are using movies to try to win the debate, though actor Matt Damon says viewers should not assume the movie he stars in, "Promised Land," is "a rabid anti-fracking polemic."

In the film, Damon plays a gas company landman – an agent who buys or leases land – intent on drilling beneath a town where some residents are concerned about the perils of fracking. As the landman gets to know the townspeople, he suffers a crisis of conscience.

In an interview in Los Angeles, Damon said he worries that viewers will wrongly assume the film is one-sided and not see it. He declined to offer his personal view on fracking. "That's not the point. The point is that (the film) should start a conversation."

The Northern Irish director Phelim McAleer's documentary, "FrackNation," is an unabashedly pro-drilling mantra set to air next month on AXS TV, the cable network controlled by Dallas Mavericks owner and media mogul Mark Cuban.

McAleer views fracking as "the best thing ever," a potential savior for the U.S. economy, unless the forces he likes to call "Big Enviro" succeed in derailing it.

On the other side of the argument, HBO, the cable pay channel, could air a sequel to "Gasland," a scathing 2010 documentary from director Josh Fox, as early as next year.

The original film featured scenes of tap water erupting into flames and mobilized environmental groups against fracking, drawing full-throated rebuttals from an oil industry that says the process has never caused water problems.

Fox declined comment for this article.

Amid the showdown, both industry and anti-fracking camps have mounted major campaigns to sway hearts and minds.

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"It could become the biggest environmental debate of our time," said Robert McNally, an energy policy expert and former White House adviser under George W. Bush. "Hollywood is taking notice, and the industry will have its work cut out for it to defend fracking."

Nearly four out of ten Americans surveyed by the Pew Research Center early this year said they knew nothing about fracking. Other polls show most Americans familiar with the practice believe fracking offers economic benefits but requires tougher regulation.

This year, for the first time, U.S. online searches for the term "fracking" became more popular than "climate change," Google data showed. Fracking has doubled on Google's popularity index since last year, and while "global warming" still draws more hits, the gap is narrowing.

Drinking water contamination is the leading environmental concern among Americans, according to Gallup polling data. A Bloomberg National Poll this month showed that 66 percent of Americans want more fracking regulation, up from 56 percent in September.

'Pounding the zone'

Whether "Promised Land" will shift public opinion is uncertain. But films with environmental themes often can, according to Joseph Cappella, a professor of communications at the University of Pennsylvania.

Past examples include Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" on climate change, and "Erin Brockovich," a dramatization of real events in which actress Julia Roberts played a legal clerk who uncovers water contamination by a California power company.

Ahead of the release of "Promised Land," some within the oil industry are already reading the film's script online.

"Look, I don't want to whistle past the graveyard. This film is going to be a challenge, and we'll just have to see how it does on opening weekend," said Chris Tucker of pro-drilling group Energy In Depth (EID), which is funded by industry. "In terms of popularization of the issue, it will have an effect."

The oil industry wants to avoid another blow like the one it took from Fox's 2010 "Gasland" film. Google search data shows online interest in fracking surged immediately afterwards.

For three years, Tucker has been working with other communications experts, "pounding the zone with facts" to counter what he calls false claims in "Gasland" and to promote drilling.

Films like "Promised Land" will get people curious and send them searching online, said Tucker, where he worries the term 'fracking' gets a bad rap. "People will go home and Google it, and the other side does really well on Google," he said.

EID released its own pro-drilling film, "Truthland," this year, dubbing it "the factual alternative to Gasland."

Losing PR battle?

In some ways, the film blitz may be behind the times. Fracking has already come to dominate U.S. drilling over the last half-decade: Onshore rigs doing so-called unconventional drilling account for nearly two-thirds of the total.

Tucker and industry officials are regulars at conferences, in newspaper op-ed articles, and on TV to defend drilling.

On the environmentalist side, Fox travels widely to lead anti-fracking rallies, sometimes rousing crowds by playing a banjo, which is also featured in the Gasland soundtrack. He has enlisted help from artists including Yoko Ono and Sean Lennon.

"The lesson of 'Gasland' is that public perception is a very big part of the equation," said Jonathan Wood, a political risk analyst at London-based Control Risks, whose clients include oil companies.

In a report this month, Wood wrote that the industry has "largely failed to appreciate social and political risks, and has repeatedly been caught off guard by the sophistication, speed and influence of anti-fracking activists."

## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

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The minerals are trapped thousands of feet below water tables, but critics worry that fracking fluids or hydrocarbons can still leak into water tables from wells, or above ground. Among their other concerns: fracking-related earthquakes, and growing dependence on fossil fuels.

The United States now rivals Russia as the world's top gas producer, in large part due to fracking, and has stemmed a long decline in oil output, which stands at an 18-year high near 7 million barrels a day.

So far, the Obama administration has cautiously endorsed the new drilling, but the U.S. Department of Interior is working on new fracking rules on public lands starting next year.

Some drillers have faced fracking-related fines for water contamination due to spilled fracking fluid. Last year, after sampling water in rural Pavillion, Wyoming, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented the first-ever U.S. government finding of a potential link between fracking and water contamination.

More broadly, however, the EPA condones fracking on safety grounds. But unlike the growing consensus among climate scientists linking global warming and industrial activity, there is no consensus that fracking poses a danger. Unconventional drilling has surged only over the last half decade.

The EPA will release an in-depth study on fracking's potential impacts on water supplies in 2014.

Tough economic times can widen support for drilling. A national Gallup poll this year showed that more Americans favored prioritizing economic growth over the protection of the environment (49 percent versus 41 percent).

That's a reversal from 2007, when 55 percent favored environmental protection.

Cuban is betting the hot potato issue will draw viewers to "FrackNation" on his cable channel.

"Op-Ed-umentaries like this are supposed to make people think about the topic, which is always a good thing," he said.

More from around the web

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Channel 5 News @ 10PM  
Channel 5 News at 10 PM - KGWN-TV

12/29/2012

met for a little more than an hour this afternoon - trying to tackle the nation's impending fiscal cliff.that wasn't enough time to reach a deal -- but lawmakers in the senate headed right back to capitol hill, charged with getting the job done.cbs's danielle nottingham has more from the white house. Top congressional leaders met with president obama at the white house...trying to avoid the automatic tax hikes and spending cuts set to kick in january first.the president called the meeting "constructive" but reminded lawmakers --- there's not much time left. President Obama "We're now at the point where in just four days every American's tax rates are scheduled to go up by law." senators harry reid and mitch mcconnell returned to the senate floor, pledging to work through the weekend. McConnell"We are engaged in discussions - in the hopes that we come forward as early as sunday that we will have a recommendation." Reid"We're gonna do the best we can with the caucuses we have and the country that's waiting for us to make a decision." (gfx)DEMOCRATIC and republican leaders have agreed to extend jobless benefits and some tax increases -- but the income threshold is not yet clear. Danielle Nottingham, cbs News, The White House.THE president and senate leaders are expressing optimism they'll get the job done.but the president has a backup plan...just in case. Obama"If an agreement isn't reached in time, between Senator Reid and Senator McConnell, then I will urge Senator Reid to bring to the floor a basic package for an up or down vote." that bare-bones bill would preserve tax cuts for the middle class and extend unemployment benefits.it would also lay a foudnation for a broader deal to come.danielle nottingham, cbs news, the white house. The bureau of land management announced today that it has expanded best practice standards for the fluid mineral industry. It's part of an ongoing effort to continue to increase responsible domestic energy production while protecting wildlife near oil, gas and geothermal facilities on b-l-m lands. According to the b-l-m... Domestic oil production is at its highest in nearly a decade and natural gas at its highest level ever. Active cooperation between industry leaders and the b-l-m in recent years... Has contributed to significant decreases in the number of wildlife deaths associated with oil and gas operations. E -p-a administrator lisa jackson... The obama administration's chief environmental watchdog... Is stepping down after nearly four years serving that role. Jackson received criticism in wyoming over the past year after the e-p-a released data from its round of water testing near pavillion in november 2011. The testing detected high levels of benzene, methane and other chemicals. Jackson said the chemicals may be linked to hydraulic fracturing. Wyoming senator mike enzi has been particularly critical of the epa during jackson's tenure... Saying the epa has had an "anti-energy and therefore anti-wyoming agenda." jackson said she believes she's leaving the e-p-a headed in the right direction. Protestors took to the streets today in youngstown, ohio for an anti-fracking rally... Just days away from the anniversary of last year's 4 point 0 magnitude earthquake. These demonstrators want to educate the public on what they say is the negative side of drilling. The ohio department of natural resources linked the quake to an injection well in youngstown. "You have an industry that has put out a lot of pr, a lot of positive spin.But, they're never around to answer the questions when it comes to our health, when it comes to leasing tactics, when it comes to the failure of institutions, the government. To do the environmental impact studies." the rally also coincides with the release of the movie promised land... Starring matt damon. Damon plays a salesman who arrives in a rural town and buys mineral rights for drilling companies. Wyoming's unemployment rate has reached its lowest level in over three years. The wyoming department of workforce services reported that wyoming's unemployment rate declined slightly between october and november, going from 5.2 percent to 5.1 percent. It's the lowest jobless rate in the state since march 2009. Sublette, niobrara and converse counties all had rates at or below 3.9 percent, the lowest in the state. Teton had the highest rate at 9.6 percent. Wyoming's unemployment rate remains well below the national average of 7.7 percent. A mere 100 miles south of cheyenne... Flu activity is up significantly over last year. The colorado department of public health and environment is reporting a total of 244 people hospitalized with the influenza. That's compared to only 32 people at the same time last year. The outbreak has resulted in two deaths between mid-november and mid-december... Both were children under the age of three. The lucky

# **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

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**12/28/2012**

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By Jonathan Leff and Joshua Schneyer

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But big drillers such as ExxonMobil and Chesapeake who have plowed billions of dollars into shale fields are watching carefully for any sign of new rules or oversight.

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While fracking technology has been around for decades, it has only gained widespread use across dozens of states in recent years. The EPA, like many groups, has struggled to keep up with the expansion, according to Government Accountability Office reports released earlier this year.

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And eventually, the EPA could face pressure to backtrack on previous initiatives. In April, the agency relented to pressure from the industry, giving drillers until January 2015 to end the practice of "flaring" excess natural gas from wells that were not connected to pipelines. It had initially proposed that firms cease almost immediately.

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### **After Jackson, EPA faces decisions on U.S. fracking boom** **Thomson Reuters - UK - Online**

**12/28/2012**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, speaks during a news conference in Rio de Janeiro June 20, 2012.

Credit: Reuters/Ueslei Marcelino

NEW YORK | Fri Dec 28, 2012 9:28pm GMT

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**12/28/2012**

By Jonathan Leff and Joshua Schneyer

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**12/28/2012**

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(Additional reporting by Selam Gebrekidan and Valerie Volcovici; Editing by Joseph Radford and Andrew Hay)

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**Channel 5 News at 5:30 PM - KGWN-TV**

**12/28/2012**

today that it has expanded best practice standards for the fluid mineral industry. It's part of an ongoing effort to continue to increase responsible domestic energy production while protecting wildlife near oil, gas and geothermal facilities on b-l-m lands. According to the b-l-m... Domestic oil production is at its highest in nearly a decade and natural gas at its highest level ever. Active cooperation between industry leaders and the b-l-m in recent years... Has contributed to significant decreases in the number of wildlife deaths associated with oil and gas operations. E-p-a administrator lisa jackson... The obama administration's chief environmental watchdog... Is stepping down after nearly four years serving that role. Jackson received criticism in wyoming over the past year after the e-p-a released data from its round of water testing near pavillion in november 2011. The testing detected high levels of benzene, methane and other chemicals. Jackson said the chemicals may be linked to hydraulic fracturing. Wyoming senator mike enzi has been particularly critical of the epa during jackson's tenure... Saying the epa has had an "anti-energy and therefore anti-wyoming agenda." jackson said she believes she's leaving the e-p-a headed in the right direction. This year was the driest in wyoming in 118 years... Leaving ranchers with tough decisions to make. While many survived the summer... They speculate that another year with even a small percentage of this year's conditions could force them to lose their business. About 15 percent of the state's cattle was sold this year to accommodate for lack of food. According to the national weather service... Weathers patterns for 2013 could yield below average precipitation once again... Leaving more ranchers out of work. A mere 100 miles south of cheyenne... Flu activity is up significantly over last year. The colorado department of public health and environment is reporting a total of 244 people hospitalized with the influenza. That's compared to only 32 people at the same time last year. The outbreak has resulted in two deaths between mid-november and mid-december... Both were children under the age of three. The lucky parents of this year's new year's baby will be receiving a special gift. Laramie county safe communities and cheyenne regional medical center will present a new child safety seat and other safety devices to the family of the first born at cheyenne regional on january 1. The video you're seeing is of last year's baby... Six-pound six-ounce kanen kyler. Hunters have killed 41 wolves so far during wyoming's trophy wolf-hunting season. As of the latest update, 11 more wolves can be taken before the season ends on monday. Hunters have 24 hours to report kills. Hunt supporter maury jones says he's not surprised that hunters haven't filled the quota yet because wolves are difficult to shoot. It's wyoming's first wolf hunting season since the federal government reintroduced wolves to the yellowstone ecosystem in the 1990s. Besides the trophy kills, 23 wolves have been killed as predators. The sponsor of the "stage stop" sled dog race will donate dog food to eight animal shelters along the race route. Pedigree announced that it will donate a year's worth of dog food to seven shelters in wyoming in jackson, alpine, pinedale, lander, big piney, kemmerer and evanston. The 18th annual "stage stop" sled dog race will include parts of montana, idaho and utah on its course this year, in addition to running through wyoming. It starts january 25 in jackson. Specialty home decor and gifts retailer... Kirkland's... Recently opened one of its newest locations at cheyenne marketplace in frontier mall and will soon host its grand opening. The chain was founded in the southeast and currently operates 324 stores nationwide. Cheyenne is their only new location for the holiday season... West of the mississippi river. Kirkland's will host its grand opening on january 12 and 13. They will employ between 15 and 18 people. Coming up right after the break... Chris will have a complete look at your forecast.. Plus... In sports a offer is on the table for the n-h-l players...kurt

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### **UPDATE 1-After Jackson, EPA faces decisions on US fracking boom** **Reuters India**

**12/28/2012**

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The controversial technique at the center of the boom, hydraulic fracturing, involves injecting millions of gallons of water laced with chemicals deep into shale rocks to extract oil and gas. It has become a flashpoint issue, putting the EPA -- charged with safeguarding the nation's water -- in the middle of a fight between environmentalists and the energy industry.

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On the one hand, energy industry and big manufacturers are warning the EPA not to impede a drilling boom that offers the promise of decades' worth of cheap energy. Meanwhile, environmentalists are pressing President Barack Obama to ensure the drilling bonanza is not endangering water resources.

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Even Jackson, who suffered withering criticism from big industry and Republicans for her efforts to curb pollution and limit greenhouse gas emissions, has cautiously condoned the practice as safe, while acknowledging the need for greater study and, in some cases, oversight.

"(Fracking technology) is perfectly capable of being clean," Jackson said in February. "It requires smart regulation, smart rules of the road."

Jackson's successor may now be charged with refining those rules, and both energy companies and fracking critics are anxious about the outcome.

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APPETITE TO REGULATE

## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan.**

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"Even before (Jackson's resignation) there didn't seem to be much of an appetite in the White House to regulate shale drilling on a federal level in the next couple of years," says Nitzan Goldberger, U.S. energy policy analyst with Eurasia Group.

But big drillers such as ExxonMobil and Chesapeake who have plowed billions of dollars into shale fields are watching carefully for any sign of new rules or oversight.

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"Regulatory overlays that add to the cost of production will further slow down development" but won't stop it, he said.

While fracking technology has been around for decades, it has only gained widespread use across dozens of states in recent years. The EPA, like many groups, has struggled to keep up with the expansion, according to Government Accountability Office reports released earlier this year.

After years in which states were mostly responsible for regulating onshore drilling, the new EPA administrator will be pressed to take a more central role.

A year ago, in the first U.S. government report of its kind, the EPA drew a potential link between water contamination in rural Pavillion, Wyoming and fracking, based on samples of ground water from the area. That study has been contested, and subsequent research has been inconclusive.

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## **EPA head Jackson steps down Wyoming Business Report - Online, The**

**12/28/2012**

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WBR Article

EPA head Jackson steps down

By MJ Clark

December 28, 2012 --

WASHINGTON D.C. - Environmental Protection Agency chief Lisa Jackson has announced that she will be leaving the EPA in January. Her tenure has been marked by battles with industry and Republican senators, who claimed that the EPA's tighter regulations on emissions were "job killers."

"Under this Administration, the EPA has had an anti-energy and therefore anti-Wyoming agenda," said Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., in a prepared statement about Jackson's resignation. "The regulations and red tape that have flowed from this one agency have helped slow our economic recovery and have ignored the concerns of farmers, ranchers, and our energy industry."

The EPA was also at the center of what seems to be a botched investigation into any link between water pollution and fracking in Pavillion, where EPA test results could not be verified by the U.S. Geological Survey. The decision on whether fracking is sufficiently regulated will be left to her successor.

In his statement, Enzi posited that the successor may not be an improvement. "I'm not convinced that a new agency head will make much of a difference in the policies we will see over the next four years," he said. "There is always a possibility that someone with a more aggressive environmental agenda will lead the EPA in its war on coal and traditional forms of energy."

Jackson, 50, a chemical engineer, gave no reason for her departure other than to say that she's ready for "new challenges, time with my family and new opportunities to make a difference."

In a statement released yesterday, President Obama noted Jackson's "unwavering commitment to the health of our

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families and our children." David Goldston, director of government affairs for the Natural Resources Defense Council, called Jackson "an outspoken fighter for environmental protection."

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EPA head Jackson steps down

# EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2

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**12/28/2012**

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By Jonathan Leff and Joshua Schneyer | Reuters \_ 33 minutes ago

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, speaks during a ...

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**12/28/2012**

By: Jonathan Leff and Joshua Schneyer

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**After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom | Sustainability | Thomson Reuters**  
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**12/28/2012**

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By Jonathan Leff and Joshua Schneyer | 28 December 2012

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## **2**

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## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

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### **After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom Business Insurance - Online**

**12/28/2012**

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Both sides now eagerly await a major EPA research project into fracking's effects on water supplies due in 2014, as well as final rules on issues including the disposal of wastewater and the use of 'diesel' chemicals in the process.

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On the one hand, energy industry and big manufacturers are warning the EPA not to impede a drilling boom that offers the promise of decades' worth of cheap energy. Meanwhile, environmentalists are pressing President Barack Obama to ensure the drilling bonanza is not endangering water resources.

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### **2**

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### **EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson announces resignation Casper Star-Tribune - Online**

**12/28/2012**

2012-12-28T07:00:00Z 2012-12-28T09:41:03Z EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson announces resignation

The Associated Press

The Associated Press

5 hours ago &#8226; Associated Press

WASHINGTON – EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, the Obama administration's chief environmental watchdog, is stepping down after nearly four years marked by high-profile debates over groundwater testing near Pavillion, global warming pollution, the Keystone XL oil pipeline, new controls on coal-fired plants and several other hot-button issues that affect the nation's economy and people's health.

Jackson constantly found herself caught between administration pledges to solve thorny environmental problems and steady resistance from Republicans and industrial groups who complained that the agency's rules destroyed jobs and made it harder for American companies to compete internationally.

The GOP chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Rep. Fred Upton of Michigan, said last year that Jackson would need her own parking spot at the Capitol because he planned to bring her in so frequently for questioning. Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney called for her firing, a stance that had little downside during the GOP primary.

Jackson, 50, the agency's first black administrator and a chemical engineer, did not point to any particular reason for her departure. Historically, Cabinet members looking to move on will leave at the beginning of a president's second term.

Jackson came under fire in Wyoming this past year after the EPA released data from its round of water testing near Pavillion in November 2011. The testing detected high levels of benzene, methane and other chemicals. Jackson said the chemicals may be linked to hydraulic fracturing.

A month later, the EPA released a draft report tentatively linking hydraulic fracturing to groundwater contamination near the Pavillion gas field. Industry officials largely condemned the report while environmental groups touted it as proof hydraulic fracturing is a danger to water supplies. That same month, Gov. Matt Mead called for a broader groundwater investigation of the area.

In January, the EPA extended public comment on the draft report, which was originally set to expire that month.

The EPA agreed to further testing of its two wells near Pavillion in March, to clarify questions about the first round of results. The agency agreed to bring in the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct the testing. The next month, the USGS began a second round of testing on the wells near Pavillion.

In September the USGS releases data from the last round of testing with no analysis. The EPA and industry offered differing interpretations of the numbers, with the EPA saying they're "generally consistent" with earlier results.

In October EPA officials announced another comment period delay, this time to January, at a Pavillion Working Group meeting in Riverton. A long-awaited peer review was also pushed back, likely to January.

Wyoming U.S. Sen. Mike Enzi criticized the Obama administration in a media release issued Thursday about Jackson's resignation.

"Under this Administration, the EPA has had an anti-energy and therefore anti-Wyoming agenda," the statement read. "The regulations and red tape that have flowed from this one agency have helped slow our economic recovery and have ignored the concerns of farmers, ranchers, and our energy industry. Unfortunately, this is being driven by the White House

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### **2**

and I'm not convinced that a new agency head will make much of a difference in the policies we will see over the next four years. There is always a possibility that someone with a more aggressive environmental agenda will lead the EPA in its war on coal and traditional forms of energy."

Despite the opposition on several fronts, which former EPA chiefs have said is the worst they have seen against the agency, Jackson still managed to take significant steps that will improve air quality and begin to curb global warming.

"I will leave the EPA confident the ship is sailing in the right direction, and ready in my own life for new challenges, time with my family and new opportunities to make a difference," she said in a statement. Jackson will leave sometime after President Barack Obama delivers his State of the Union address, typically in late January.

In a separate statement, Obama said Jackson has been "an important part of my team." He thanked her for serving and praised her "unwavering commitment" to the public's health.

"Under her leadership, the EPA has taken sensible and important steps to protect the air we breathe and the water we drink, including implementing the first national standard for harmful mercury pollution, taking important action to combat climate change under the Clean Air Act and playing a key role in establishing historic fuel economy standards that will save the average American family thousands of dollars at the pump, while also slashing carbon pollution," he said.

Environmental activist groups and other supporters lauded Jackson for the changes she was able to make, but industry representatives said some may have come at an economic cost. Groups also noted that she leaves a large, unfinished agenda.

"There has been no fiercer champion of our health and our environment than Lisa Jackson, and every American is better off today than when she took office nearly four years ago," said Frances Beinecke, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council. But she noted that Jackson's successor will inherit an unfinished agenda, including the need to issue new health protections against carbon pollution from existing power plants.

Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., chairman of the Senate's subcommittee on clean air, called Jackson's tenure a "breath of fresh air" and credited her for setting historic fuel economy standards for cars and trucks, and for finalizing clean air standards.

But Scott Segal, director of the Electric Reliability Coordinating Council, said Jackson presided over some of the most expensive environmental rules in EPA history.

"Agency rules have been used as blunt attempts to marginalize coal and other solid fossil fuels and to make motor fuels more costly at the expense of industrial jobs, energy security, and economic recovery," Segal said. "The record of the agency over the same period in overestimating benefits to major rules has not assisted the public in determining whether these rules have been worth it."

Other environmental groups, though, praised Jackson's clean air efforts.

"Notwithstanding the difficult economic and political challenges EPA faced, her agency was directly responsible for saving the lives of tens of thousands of Americans and improving the health of millions throughout the country," said S. William Becker of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies. "She will be sorely missed."

Larry Schweiger, head of the National Wildlife Federation, cited her climate change work and efforts to reduce carbon pollution.

Environmental groups had high expectations for the administration headed by Obama, a Democrat, after eight years of President George W. Bush, a Republican and Texas oilman who rebuffed agency scientists and refused act on climate change. Jackson came into office promising a more active EPA.

But she soon learned that changes would not occur as quickly as she had hoped. Jackson watched as a Democratic-led effort to reduce global warming emissions passed the House in 2009 but was then abandoned by the Senate as economic concerns became the priority. The concept behind the bill, referred to as cap-and-trade, would have established a system where power companies bought and sold pollution rights.

"That's a revolutionary message for our country," Jackson said at a Paris conference shortly after taking the job.

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Jackson experienced another big setback last year when the administration scrubbed a clean-air regulation aimed at reducing health-threatening smog. Republican lawmakers had been hammering the president over the proposed rule, accusing him of making it harder for companies to create jobs.

She also vowed to better control toxic coal ash after a massive spill in Tennessee, but that regulation has yet to be finalized more than four years after the spill.

Jackson had some victories, too. During her tenure, the administration finalized a new rule doubling fuel efficiency standards for cars and light trucks. The requirements will be phased in over 13 years and eventually require all new vehicles to average 54.5 mpg, up from 28.6 mpg at the end of last year.

She shepherded another rule that forces power plants to control mercury and other toxic pollutants for the first time. Previously, the nation's coal- and oil-fired power plants had been allowed to run without addressing their full environmental and public health costs.

Jackson also helped persuade the administration to table the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, which would have brought carbon-heavy tar sands oil from Canada to refineries in Texas.

House Republicans dedicated much of their time this past election year trying to rein in the EPA. They passed a bill seeking to thwart regulation of the coal industry and quash the stricter fuel efficiency standards. In the end, though, the bill made no headway in the Senate. It served mostly as election-year fodder that appeared to have little impact on the presidential race.

Associated Press writers Lolita C. Baldor and Pauline Jelinek contributed to this report.

Recommendations

## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

**After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom  
Today Show - NBC News Network - Online**

**12/28/2012**

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# EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2

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12/28/2012

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# **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

## **After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom US Daily, The**

**12/28/2012**

News:

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email article

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US-EPA-FRACKING:After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom

By Jonathan Leff and Joshua Schneyer

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## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

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After years in which states were mostly responsible for regulating onshore drilling, the new EPA administrator will be pressed to take a more central role. A Gallup poll this year showed drinking water contamination is the leading environmental concern among Americans.

A year ago, in the first U.S. government report of its kind, the EPA drew a potential link between water contamination in rural Pavillion, Wyoming and fracking, based on samples of ground water from the area. That study has been contested, and subsequent research has been inconclusive.

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Page: 1

Source:Reuters.

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# **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

## **EPA Administrator Jackson announces resignation KOTA-TV - Online**

**12/28/2012**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Environmental Protection Agency Administration Lisa Jackson says she's stepping down after nearly four years on the job.

Jackson announced her departure in a statement Thursday. She gave no particular reason for leaving but said she was ready for new challenges, time with her family and new opportunities to make a difference.

Jackson's tenure was marked by high-profile brawls, including the fight over whether hydraulic fracturing was causing groundwater pollution in the tiny Wyoming community of Pavillion

She says she's leaving the agency, in her words, "confident the ship is sailing in the right direction."

Jackson is expected to leave after the State of the Union address in late January. Cabinet members looking to move on often leave at the beginning of a president's second term.

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# **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

## **After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom Reuters India**

**12/28/2012**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, speaks during a news conference in Rio de Janeiro June 20, 2012.

Credit: Reuters/Ueslei Marcelino

NEW YORK | Fri Dec 28, 2012 10:31am IST

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Both sides now eagerly await a major EPA research project into fracking's effects on water supplies due in 2014, as well as final rules on issues including the disposal of wastewater and the use of 'diesel' chemicals in the process.

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## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan.**

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### **After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom** **Rocket News**

**12/28/2012**

Written on December 28, 2012 by Editor - Top News Stories

NEW YORK |

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### **2**

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**12/28/2012**

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# EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2

**After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U...**  
**WSAU.com**

**12/28/2012**

News

After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom

Thursday, December 27, 2012 11:01 p.m. CST

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, speaks during a news conference in Rio de Janeiro June 20, 2012. REUTERS/Ue

By Jonathan Leff and Joshua Schneyer

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**In fracking culture war, celebs, billionaires and banjos**  
**ltmatters.com.ph**

**12/28/2012**

Weekender

Posted on December 27, 2012 06:49:14 PM

By Joshua Scheneyer and Edward McAllister, Reuters

In fracking culture war, celebs, billionaires and banjos

NEW YORK -- Not so long ago, fracking was a technical term little known beyond the energy industry. Now it's coming to Hollywood, as the fierce battle between environmentalists and oil firms is played out in several forthcoming films.

A still from Gasland -- [www.naturalgaswatch.org](http://www.naturalgaswatch.org)

Hydraulic fracturing, the controversial drilling technique also known as fracking, has lifted US energy output dramatically, despite warnings from critics who fear it pollutes water deep underground.

Any shift in public opinion could impact policy -- and huge sums in energy spending -- since drilling regulations are under review by the Obama administration and local officials around the country. The high stakes involve a range of issues from US energy independence, to protection of drinking water.

Both sides are using movies to try to win the debate, though actor Matt Damon says viewers should not assume the movie he stars in, Promised Land, is "a rabid anti-fracking polemic."

In the film, Damon plays a gas company landman -- an agent who buys or leases land -- intent on drilling beneath a town where some residents are concerned about the perils of fracking. As the landman gets to know the townspeople, he suffers a crisis of conscience.

In an interview in Los Angeles, Damon said he worries that viewers will wrongly assume the film is one-sided and not see it. He declined to offer his personal view on fracking. "That's not the point. The point is that (the film) should start a conversation."

The Northern Irish director Phelim McAleer's documentary, FrackNation, is an unabashedly pro-drilling mantra set to air next month on AXS TV, the cable network controlled by Dallas Mavericks owner and media mogul Mark Cuban.

McAleer views fracking as "the best thing ever," a potential savior for the US economy, unless the forces he likes to call "Big Enviro" succeed in derailing it.

On the other side of the argument, HBO, the cable pay channel, could air a sequel to Gasland, a scathing 2010 documentary from director Josh Fox, as early as next year.

The original film featured scenes of tap water erupting into flames and mobilized environmental groups against fracking, drawing full-throated rebuttals from an oil industry that says the process has never caused water problems.

Fox declined comment for this article.

Amid the showdown, both industry and anti-fracking camps have mounted major campaigns to sway hearts and minds.

"It could become the biggest environmental debate of our time," said Robert McNally, an energy policy expert and former White House adviser under George W. Bush. "Hollywood is taking notice, and the industry will have its work cut out for it to defend fracking."

Nearly four out of ten Americans surveyed by the Pew Research Center early this year said they knew nothing about

## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

fracking. Other polls show most Americans familiar with the practice believe fracking offers economic benefits but requires tougher regulation.

This year, for the first time, US online searches for the term "fracking" became more popular than "climate change," Google data showed. Fracking has doubled on Google's popularity index since last year, and while "global warming" still draws more hits, the gap is narrowing.

Drinking water contamination is the leading environmental concern among Americans, according to Gallup polling data. A Bloomberg National Poll this month showed that 66% of Americans want more fracking regulation, up from 56% in September.

### **"POUNDING THE ZONE"**

Whether Promised Land will shift public opinion is uncertain. But films with environmental themes often can, according to Joseph Cappella, a professor of communications at the University of Pennsylvania.

Past examples include Al Gore's An Inconvenient Truth on climate change, and Erin Brockovich, a dramatization of real events in which actress Julia Roberts played a legal clerk who uncovers water contamination by a California power company.

Ahead of the release of Promised Land, some within the oil industry are already reading the film's script online.

"Look, I don't want to whistle past the graveyard. This film is going to be a challenge, and we'll just have to see how it does on opening weekend," said Chris Tucker of pro-drilling group Energy In Depth (EID), which is funded by industry. "In terms of popularization of the issue, it will have an effect."

The oil industry wants to avoid another blow like the one it took from Fox's 2010 Gasland film. Google search data shows online interest in fracking surged immediately afterwards.

For three years, Tucker has been working with other communications experts, "pounding the zone with facts" to counter what he calls false claims in Gasland and to promote drilling.

Films like Promised Land will get people curious and send them searching online, said Tucker, where he worries the term "fracking" gets a bad rap. "People will go home and Google it, and the other side does really well on Google," he said.

EID released its own pro-drilling film, Truthland, this year, dubbing it "the factual alternative to Gasland."

### **LOSING PR BATTLE?**

In some ways, the film blitz may be behind the times. Fracking has already come to dominate US drilling over the last half-decade: Onshore rigs doing so-called unconventional drilling account for nearly two-thirds of the total.

Tucker and industry officials are regulars at conferences, in newspaper op-ed articles, and on TV to defend drilling.

On the environmentalist side, Fox travels widely to lead anti-fracking rallies, sometimes rousing crowds by playing a banjo, which is also featured in the Gasland soundtrack. He has enlisted help from artists including Yoko Ono and Sean Lennon.

"The lesson of Gasland is that public perception is a very big part of the equation," said Jonathan Wood, a political risk analyst at London-based Control Risks, whose clients include oil companies.

In a report this month, Wood wrote that the industry has "largely failed to appreciate social and political risks, and has repeatedly been caught off guard by the sophistication, speed and influence of anti-fracking activists."

Hydraulic fracturing entails pumping water laced with chemicals and sand at high pressure into shale rock formations to break them up and unleash hydrocarbons.

The minerals are trapped thousands of feet below water tables, but critics worry that fracking fluids or hydrocarbons can still leak into water tables from wells, or above ground. Among their other concerns: fracking-related earthquakes, and

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growing dependence on fossil fuels.

The United States now rivals Russia as the world's top gas producer, in large part due to fracking, and has stemmed a long decline in oil output, which stands at an 18-year high near 7 million barrels a day.

So far, the Obama administration has cautiously endorsed the new drilling, but the US Department of Interior is working on new fracking rules on public lands starting next year.

Some drillers have faced fracking-related fines for water contamination due to spilled fracking fluid. Last year, after sampling water in rural Pavillion, Wyoming, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) presented the first-ever US government finding of a potential link between fracking and water contamination.

More broadly, however, the EPA condones fracking on safety grounds. But unlike the growing consensus among climate scientists linking global warming and industrial activity, there is no consensus that fracking poses a danger. Unconventional drilling has surged only over the last half decade.

The EPA will release an in-depth study on fracking's potential impacts on water supplies in 2014.

Tough economic times can widen support for drilling. A national Gallup poll this year showed that more Americans favored prioritizing economic growth over the protection of the environment (49% versus 41%).

That's a reversal from 2007, when 55% favored environmental protection.

Cuban is betting the hot potato issue will draw viewers to FrackNation on his cable channel.

"Op-Ed-umentaries like this are supposed to make people think about the topic, which is always a good thing," he said.

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# **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan.**

## **2**

### **After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom** **KDAL-AM - Online**

**12/28/2012**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, speaks during a news conference in Rio de Janeiro June 20, 2012. REUTERS/Ue

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The past four years of U.S. environmental regulation was marked by a crackdown on emissions that angered coal miners and power companies. Over the next four, the new head of the Environmental Protection Agency will have to decide whether to take on an even larger industry: Big Oil.

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The controversial technique at the center of the boom, hydraulic fracturing, involves injecting millions of gallons of water laced with chemicals deep into shale rocks to extract oil and gas. It has become a flashpoint issue, putting the EPA -- charged with safeguarding the nation's water -- in the middle of a fight between environmentalists and the energy industry.

Both sides now eagerly await a major EPA research project into fracking's effects on water supplies due in 2014, as well as final rules on issues including the disposal of wastewater and the use of 'diesel' chemicals in the process.

It is unclear who will take the role, but the incoming chief may have a "huge impact" on the oil and gas industry, says Robert McNally, a White House energy adviser during the George W. Bush administration who now heads the Rapidan Group, a consulting firm.

On the one hand, energy industry and big manufacturers are warning the EPA not to impede a drilling boom that offers the promise of decades' worth of cheap energy. Meanwhile, environmentalists are pressing President Barack Obama to ensure the drilling bonanza is not endangering water resources.

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After years in which states were mostly responsible for regulating onshore drilling, the new EPA administrator will be pressed to take a more central role. A Gallup poll this year showed drinking water contamination is the leading environmental concern among Americans.

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**12/28/2012**

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By Jonathan Leff and Joshua Schneyer

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## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan.**

### **2**

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# **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

## **Fracking USA - big decisions loom IOL News Search**

**12/28/2012**

December 28 2012 at 10:39am

By Reuters

Reuters

File photo of a fracking site in the USA.

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## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan.**

### **2**

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## **EPA Administrator Jackson announces resignation Northern Colorado 5 - Online**

**12/28/2012**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Environmental Protection Agency Administration Lisa Jackson says she's stepping down after nearly four years on the job.

Jackson announced her departure in a statement Thursday. She gave no particular reason for leaving but said she was ready for new challenges, time with her family and new opportunities to make a difference.

Jackson's tenure was marked by high-profile brawls, including the fight over whether hydraulic fracturing was causing groundwater pollution in the tiny Wyoming community of Pavillion

She says she's leaving the agency, in her words, "confident the ship is sailing in the right direction."

Jackson is expected to leave after the State of the Union address in late January. Cabinet members looking to move on often leave at the beginning of a president's second term.

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# EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2

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**12/28/2012**

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NEW YORK | Fri Dec 28, 2012 10:29am IST

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Regulatory News

## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

### **After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom MSN Money (US)**

**12/28/2012**

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Both sides now eagerly await a major EPA research project into fracking's effects on water supplies due in 2014, as well as final rules on issues including the disposal of wastewater and the use of 'diesel' chemicals in the process.

It is unclear who will take the role, but the incoming chief may have a "huge impact" on the oil and gas industry, says Robert McNally, a White House energy adviser during the George W. Bush administration who now heads the Rapidan Group, a consulting firm.

On the one hand, energy industry and big manufacturers are warning the EPA not to impede a drilling boom that offers the promise of decades' worth of cheap energy. Meanwhile, environmentalists are pressing President Barack Obama to ensure the drilling bonanza is not endangering water resources.

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Jackson's successor may now be charged with refining those rules, and both energy companies and fracking critics are anxious about the outcome.

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# **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan.**

## **2**

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**12/28/2012**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, speaks during a news conference in Rio de Janeiro June 20, 2012. REUTERS/Ue

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## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

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**10 sources**

**New York, NY**

**Jonathan Leff**

**12/28/2012**

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## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

### **EPA Administrator Jackson announces resignation KGWN-TV - Online**

**12/28/2012**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Environmental Protection Agency Administration Lisa Jackson says she's stepping down after nearly four years on the job.

Jackson announced her departure in a statement Thursday. She gave no particular reason for leaving but said she was ready for new challenges, time with her family and new opportunities to make a difference.

Jackson's tenure was marked by high-profile brawls, including the fight over whether hydraulic fracturing was causing groundwater pollution in the tiny Wyoming community of Pavillion

She says she's leaving the agency, in her words, "confident the ship is sailing in the right direction."

Jackson is expected to leave after the State of the Union address in late January. Cabinet members looking to move on often leave at the beginning of a president's second term.

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## **2**

**After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U...**  
**WHTC-AM - Online**

**12/28/2012**

News

After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom

Friday, December 28, 2012 12:01 a.m. EST

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, speaks during a news conference in Rio de Janeiro June 20, 2012. REUTERS/Ue

By Jonathan Leff and Joshua Schneyer

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SEVERE WEATHER ALERT:

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greenville...alma...jenison...grand rapids...onia...st. johns...

holland...hastings...charlotte...lansing...south haven...

kalamazoo...battle creek...jackson

940 pm est thu dec 27 2012

...winter weather advisory in effect from 1 pm friday to 6 am est

saturday...

the national weather service in grand rapids has issued a winter

weather advisory for snow and hazardous travel...which is in effect

from 1 pm friday to 6 am est saturday.

hazardous weather...

\* snow will develop after 1 pm friday

\* total accumulations mostly in the 1 to 3 inch range...locally

up to 4 inches.

impacts...

\* hazardous travel during the friday evening commute.

## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

precautionary/preparedness actions...

\* the michigan department of transportation reminds motorists  
to adjust speeds based on the conditions... and to take it  
slow in ice and snow.

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**12/28/2012**

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After years in which states were mostly responsible for regulating onshore drilling, the new EPA administrator will be pressed to take a more central role. A Gallup poll this year showed drinking water contamination is the leading environmental concern among Americans.

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However, what exactly constitutes "diesel" has been a bone of contention among oil firms and environmental groups.

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Under Jackson, the EPA also said it would begin to regulate the millions of gallons a day of wastewater that is withdrawn from wells after the fracking process, probably in 2014. This is usually trucked offsite and sometimes re-injected elsewhere, although increasingly it is being reprocessed for further use.

And eventually, the EPA could face pressure to backtrack on previous initiatives. In April, the agency relented to pressure from the industry, giving drillers until January 2015 to end the practice of "flaring" excess natural gas from wells that were not connected to pipelines. It had initially proposed that firms cease almost immediately.

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## EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2

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(Additional reporting by Selam Gebrekidan and Valerie Volcovici; Editing by Joseph Radford)

SEVERE WEATHER ALERT:

Winter Weather Advisory

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including the cities of...ludington...baldwin...reed city...

clare...hart...fremont...big rapids...mount pleasant...muskegon...

greenville...alma...jenison...grand rapids...onia...st. johns...

holland...hastings...charlotte...lansing...south haven...

kalamazoo...battle creek...jackson

940 pm est thu dec 27 2012

...winter weather advisory in effect from 1 pm friday to 6 am est

saturday...

the national weather service in grand rapids has issued a winter

weather advisory for snow and hazardous travel...which is in effect

from 1 pm friday to 6 am est saturday.

hazardous weather...

\* snow will develop after 1 pm friday

\* total accumulations mostly in the 1 to 3 inch range...locally

up to 4 inches.

impacts...

\* hazardous travel during the friday evening commute.

## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

precautionary/preparedness actions...

\* the michigan department of transportation reminds motorists  
to adjust speeds based on the conditions... and to take it  
slow in ice and snow.

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## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

### **After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom WNMT-AM - Online**

**12/28/2012**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson, speaks during a news conference in Rio de Janeiro June 20, 2012. REUTERS/Ue

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The past four years of U.S. environmental regulation was marked by a crackdown on emissions that angered coal miners and power companies. Over the next four, the new head of the Environmental Protection Agency will have to decide whether to take on an even larger industry: Big Oil.

Following Lisa Jackson's resignation on Wednesday, her successor will inherit the tricky task of regulating a drilling boom that has revolutionized the energy industry but raised fears over the possible contamination of water supplies.

The controversial technique at the center of the boom, hydraulic fracturing, involves injecting millions of gallons of water laced with chemicals deep into shale rocks to extract oil and gas. It has become a flashpoint issue, putting the EPA -- charged with safeguarding the nation's water -- in the middle of a fight between environmentalists and the energy industry.

Both sides now eagerly await a major EPA research project into fracking's effects on water supplies due in 2014, as well as final rules on issues including the disposal of wastewater and the use of 'diesel' chemicals in the process.

It is unclear who will take the role, but the incoming chief may have a "huge impact" on the oil and gas industry, says Robert McNally, a White House energy adviser during the George W. Bush administration who now heads the Rapidan Group, a consulting firm.

On the one hand, energy industry and big manufacturers are warning the EPA not to impede a drilling boom that offers the promise of decades' worth of cheap energy. Meanwhile, environmentalists are pressing President Barack Obama to ensure the drilling bonanza is not endangering water resources.

"This administration clearly needs contributors to economic growth for its economic legacy as much as it needs to add to its environmental legacy," said Bruce Bullock of the Maguire Energy Institute at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

"This appointment could be key in seeing which of those two legacies is more important."

There are many contenders for the role, but no clear front-runner as yet. But Obama is unlikely to win Congressional approval for a heavy-handed regulator, and there is no suggestion of a stringent crackdown.

Even Jackson, who suffered withering criticism from big industry and Republicans for her efforts to curb pollution and limit greenhouse gas emissions, has cautiously condoned the practice as safe, while acknowledging the need for greater study and, in some cases, oversight.

"(Fracking technology) is perfectly capable of being clean," Jackson said in February. "It requires smart regulation, smart rules of the road."

Jackson's successor may now be charged with refining those rules, and both energy companies and fracking critics are anxious about the outcome.

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# **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan.**

## **2**

### **After Jackson, EPA faces big decisions on U.S. fracking boom Thomson Reuters - UK - Online**

**12/28/2012**

NEW YORK | Fri Dec 28, 2012 4:59am GMT

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## **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan. 2**

### **EPA Administrator Jackson announces resignation Associated Press (AP) - Cheyenne Bureau**

**12/28/2012**

WASHINGTON\_Environmental Protection Agency Administration Lisa Jackson says she's stepping down after nearly four years on the job.

Jackson announced her departure in a statement Thursday. She gave no particular reason for leaving but said she was ready for new challenges, time with her family and new opportunities to make a difference.

Jackson's tenure was marked by high-profile brawls, including the fight over whether hydraulic fracturing was causing groundwater pollution in the tiny Wyoming community of Pavillion

She says she's leaving the agency, in her words, "confident the ship is sailing in the right direction."

Jackson is expected to leave after the State of the Union address in late January. Cabinet members looking to move on often leave at the beginning of a president's second term.

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# **EPA & Pavillion - Dec. 28 to Jan.**

## **2**

### **Latest Wyoming news, sports, business and entertainment Associated Press (AP) - Cheyenne Bureau**

**12/28/2012**

#### **GAME LAWS**

Legislature to consider game, fish license hikes

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) \_ Wyoming lawmakers will face a range of bills concerning hunting and fishing issues when they convene next month, including one that calls for increasing license fees.

The Legislature's Joint Travel, Recreation and Wildlife Committee has endorsed a bill to increase most hunting and fishing licenses for both residents and nonresidents.

Eric Keszler is spokesman for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. He says the department needs the license fee increases to maintain its current level of operations. He says failing to approve the increases would result in about a 20 percent cut in the agency's budget.

Other proposed bills related to game and fish would allow hunters to kill a cow bison every five years, up from the current law that limits hunters to one bison tag in their lifetime.

#### **DIPLOMA WEBSITE-COMPLAINT**

Wyo. fights site offering life-experience degrees

(Information in the following story is from: Casper (Wyo.) Star-Tribune, <http://www.trib.com>)

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) \_ A Cheyenne-based website that offered degrees in medicine, law and other areas based on life experience is facing legal action from the state of Wyoming.

A complaint filed by the state is asking Right Price Registration LLC to stop operating as an unregistered, degree-granting educational institution and to remove all references to Wyoming from its promotional materials.

The Casper Star-Tribune reports the website <http://www.degreeinaday.com>, registered in the state by Right Price Registration, offered to provide customers a diploma document for associate's degrees to master's degrees for as little as \$195. The website wasn't active Thursday.

Repeated calls to Degree in a Day's Cheyenne phone number by the Star-Tribune were unanswered.

#### **CASPER MOUNTAIN FIRE**

Cause of Casper Mountain fire still not known

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) \_ Authorities still haven't determined what started the wildfire that burned more than 15,000 acres on Casper Mountain this summer.

Natrona County Fire Inspector Dave Baker told the Casper Star-Tribune that investigators believe it was human-caused. The leading theories are that the fire was accidentally started by ATV use or discarded smoking material or that it was intentionally set.

The fire destroyed 37 homes and cabins. Authorities know of only one person who has rebuilt so far.

Owen Jones, a retired elementary school principal, said he wanted a new cabin in time for the winter, his favorite time on the mountain. Like his old cabin, the new one serves as meeting place for the Dead Poet's Society \_ a group of retirees who meet to read poetry and play darts.

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## **2**

### **CHEVRON-CEO INTERVIEW**

Chevron's CEO: it will take time for natural gas to be used in nation's transportation fleet

NEW YORK (AP) \_ Chevron CEO John Watson says while he believes natural gas will displace coal in power generation, getting it into people's cars presents a larger challenge.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Watson said it will take time to develop the infrastructure necessary to make the fuel practical in the nation's transportation fleet.

When asked about hydraulic fracturing, Watson said there are "understandable anxieties" about the method of extracting oil and gas. He says the industry needs to work through them with local governments.

Coal and natural gas are the two mainstays of Wyoming's economy.

Chevron is in the midst of an enormous cycle of investment aimed at extracting oil and gas from wherever it hides in the earth's crust.

### **EPA ADMINISTRATOR**

EPA Administrator Jackson announces resignation

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Jackson is expected to leave after the State of the Union address in late January. Cabinet members looking to move on often leave at the beginning of a president's second term.

### **JACKSON TOURISM**

Hotel reservations up in Jackson Hole this weekend

(Information in the following story is from: Jackson Hole (Wyo.) News And Guide, <http://www.jhnewsandguide.com>)

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP) \_ Hotel reservations in Jackson Hole for the weekend before New Year's are up over the last two years.

The Jackson Hole Daily reported Thursday that 69 percent of lodging in the valley is booked this Saturday. Last year at the same time, 56 percent of rooms were booked. In 2010, 49 percent were reserved.

The booking rate is also better than the weekend before Christmas, when hotels and vacation rentals were only 26 percent full.

Fresh powder could be drawing visitors. Parts of Jackson Hole Mountain Resort have gotten about 2 feet of snow this week.

### **CHRISTMAS TREES-FISH**

Old Christmas trees help Ocean Lake fish habitat

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) \_ Fremont County residents don't have to let their Christmas trees go to waste after the holidays.

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They can drop them off to be used as fish habitat.

Wyoming Public Radio reports that each January, area anglers collect Christmas trees and sink them to the bottom of Ocean Lake to create a better habitat for walleye, crappie and yellow perch.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department fisheries biologist Paul Gerrity says the trees give the fish a place to forage or hide from predators in a lake whose bottom is otherwise pretty flat.

Residents can drop off live, undecorated old Christmas trees at the Lander and Dubois landfills or the Riverton bale station.

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